

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner Chawan's time spent to discuss this application with the undersigned attorney. On July 7, 2008, claims 1 and 21 were discussed with regard to section 101 rejection and agreement was reached. Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 16-27 are currently pending. Claims 4 and 9-15 have been previously canceled.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 16-20 in the Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTS UNDER 35 USC § 101

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 merely manipulate an abstract idea without a claimed limitation to produce a useful, concrete, tangible result.

Claims 1 and 21 have been amended to recite a method for generating a character string recognized to represent speech which comprises generating the resultant pattern character string and processing the resultant pattern character string as the character string representing the speech; and outputting the resultant pattern character string as the character string representing the speech for subsequent processing using the speech output. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 21 as amended do not merely manipulate an abstract idea and produce a useful, concrete, tangible result.

Claims 2-3, 5-8 and 22-27 as dependent claims of claims 1 and 21 include all of features of claims 1 and 21. For the same reasons above, claims 2-3, 5-8 and 22-27 produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Based on the above, claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 recite statutory subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-27 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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